

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 have been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Zilem et al. (US Patent No. 2,868,361) discloses a tooth brush holder comprising an elongated tubular receptacle with a hinged cover. The tubular receptacle has a tubular upper portion which is of rigid construction and is enlarged adjacent its upper end and a tubular lower portion which is pleated and is capable of being folded in the manner of a bellows. The enlarged upper end of the tubular upper portion is connected by a hinge to one edge of the cover, and a bottom plate is connected to the lower end of the tubular lower portion. A removable tooth brush is disposed in the receptacle. The toothbrush is not affixed to the tubular receptacle. The cover is raised by the exposed toothbrush when the tubular upper portion is depressed with respect to the tubular lower portion. The toothbrush may then be removed for use.

Faulseit (US Patent No. 3,342,319) discloses a rigid tubular syringe package comprising a container divided into two sections a short rectangular shaped head portion and a narrow long tapered body portion. A bellow portion is located between the two ends of the container. A pliable removable lid is adapted to be sealed to the upper face of laterally extending flange of the head portion. When the lid is removed, the package may be collapsed to project the rear portion of the enclosed syringe for removal from the packaging for application. The syringe is not affixed to the container and must be removable from the container to be functional.

Applicant's invention is a retractable packaging comprising a generally constant diameter and constant cross section elongated hollow tube housing that can be compressed and elongated axially. An elongated member, such as a cotton swab, is affixed within the elongated hollow

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tube housing. When the elongated hollow tube housing is retracted by compressing the elongated hollow tube housing axially, the applicator end of the elongated member is exposed through the open end for application without requiring removal of the elongated member. After application, the elongated hollow tube housing may be stretched back to its original length to enclose the applicator end for sanitary disposal.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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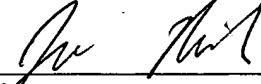
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